



CITY OF TUCSON



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NEWS RELEASE

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CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION 2800 BLOCK NORTH ESTRELLA

On November 26, 2013, at 4:02 a.m., officers from Operations Division West responded to a residence in the 2800 block of North Estrella Avenue regarding a domestic violence fight involving a knife. Upon arrival, officers contacted two juvenile females, ages 12 and 13, who had ran to the neighbor's house alleging that their step-father had attempted to break into their bedroom while brandishing a knife. During the course of the investigation, it was alleged by the girls that they had been imprisoned in their bedrooms for at least the last several months and possibly up to two years. It was also discovered that there was a 17-year old sister who was still in the house in a different bedroom. Officers made entry into the home and located a third juvenile locked in a bedroom. All three juveniles were extremely dirty and stated they had not bathed in 4 to 6 months. They were kept in filthy living conditions and alleged only being fed once a day. The children were removed from the home and the parents were taken into custody and later arrested. At this time the investigation is ongoing and further information will be released as it becomes available.

The step-father in this incident was identified as 34-year old Fernando Richter. The mother was identified as 32-year old Sophia Richter. Both were booked into the Pima County Jail with the following charges:

Mr. Richter - 3 counts of Kidnapping
- 3 counts of Child Abuse / Emotional Abuse
- 3 counts of Child Abuse / Physical Abuse
- 1 count of Sexual Abuse with a Person Under 15 Years of Age

Ms. Richter – 3 counts of Kidnapping
- 3 counts of Child Abuse / Emotional Abuse
- 3 counts of Child Abuse / Physical Abuse

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Page 1 of 1

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